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Fourth course:
**Comprehensive approach to prevent and
reduce adverse consequences of drug use in
highly vulnerable populations:
a public health strategy**

DESCRIPTION: This course addresses, from a comprehensive Public Health perspective, the type of assistance and care appropriate for people maintaining problematic use of drugs, with emphasis on population groups that are in conditions of high vulnerability from the health and social point of view. It presents the pillars for the interventions -especially community-based ones- aimed at mitigating the adverse consequences of substance use.

ADDRESSED TO: Public sector professionals with responsibilities in planning, decision making and service management, and comprehensive care programs for problematic drug users.

OBJECTIVES: At the end of the course, the participants will be able to:

- Know the basic elements to implement strategies with proven effectiveness in the reduction of the adverse consequences of drug use and the fundamental characteristics of care programmes, with emphasis on approaching population groups in high vulnerability, in contexts of exclusion or difficult access to services.
- Know different strategies of organization and management of the health and social assistance services, for a comprehensive approach to problematic drug users.
- Include within these health strategies, plans and programmes for the management of problematic drug use, those components oriented to the reduction of stigma, as well as the community-based care services, to reduce their public health and social impact.
- Recognize, based on the scientific evidence, the effectiveness of harm reduction programmes for populations with specific needs, especially for the groups in a situation of social vulnerability and health.

- Recognize the current challenges and the possible directions of policies, plans and programmes available to CELAC countries to reduce the burden of disease attributable to problematic drug use in the region.

CONTENTS:

	Tema	Descripción	Autor
1	Implementation of care to people with problematic substance use in high-vulnerability contexts: analysis of social and health barriers in access to services	Concept of "vulnerability" in the health and social field; relation of vulnerability (sanitary and social) with drug use; stigma and vulnerability situation of drug users; current challenges to comprehensive treatment of drug use by population groups in situation of high vulnerability; barriers and gaps in the provision of services; social perception about drug use in different social strata; and analysis of equity, gender approach and ethnicity in the differential access to care services.	Dr. Andrés F. Tirado Otálvaro
2	Epidemiological overview of the problematic drug use in vulnerable populations in the CELAC countries	Analysis of problematic drug consumption patterns in vulnerable populations: smoking cocaine users; homeless or under high social vulnerability population; gender specific; institutionalized/ imprison population; sexual orientation; infectious or mental comorbidity; young population; and indigenous population	Dr. Martín Güelman Lic. Graciela Ahumada
3	Challenges in the organization of psychosocial care services to reduce the socio-sanitary impact on psychoactive substance users	Organization and network articulation of services for the care of problematic drug users in situation of vulnerability; description of the principles and general fundamentals of the network services; framework and best practices; response of health systems; levels of care; intersectoral coordination (in public health, in social assistance, in education, in public safety and in justice); role of the "third sector".	Dr. Mauricio Sepúlveda
4	General principles of long-term management of problematic drug use. Harm reduction model and healthcare model for chronic conditions	Harm reduction in the context of public health; comprehensiveness and broad scope of care, protection of human rights; principles and bases of the harm reduction model; lines of action; adverse positions on the harm reduction model (advocacy of drug use, lack of evidence, harm reduction versus abstinence, etc.); theoretical influences of the harm reduction model in the context of Latin America (popular education, collective health, etc.); harm reduction interventions: ethical-political dimension and instrumental dimension; current debates within the harm reduction model.	Lic. Paula Goltzman

5	Evidence of effectiveness of harm reduction interventions: the European experience	Description of the evolution of the first harm reduction actions in Europe; implemented European harm reduction policies; programme analysis and harm reduction interventions (evidence of effectiveness): opioid substitution therapies, syringe exchange programmes, supervised drug consumption facilities, overdose prevention programmes, community outreach and education.	Dra. Teresa Brugal y equipo ASPB
6	Community approach to problematic substance use in contexts of social and health vulnerability.	Characteristics of the community approach to the socio-sanitary problem associated with the use of drugs; conceptual framework, methodology and tools of the community approach; community treatment premises; maintenance, monitoring and evaluation of relational mechanisms on the community, as well as primary health care and harm reduction.	Dra. Raquel Barros Dr. Efre Milanese
7	Usefulness of harm reduction programmes in the prevention and management of infectious co-morbidity in drug users	Relationship of the problematic use of drugs with infectious diseases (HIV-AIDS, hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections and others); description of the most prevalent infections; Usefulness of harm reduction programs in infectious comorbidity.	Dra. Helena Lima Dr. Marcus Day
8	Prevention of suicidal behaviour and management of psychiatric comorbidity among substance users in high vulnerability contexts	Description of the concurrence of substance use disorders and other mental disorders; importance of considering psychiatric comorbidities in the therapeutic approach to drug users; presentation and management of the main psychiatric comorbidities; prevention and management of suicidal behaviour in drug users.	Dra. Elisabet Arribas-Ibar
9	Gender and diversity factors in the management of problematic drug use in high-vulnerability contexts	General aspects of the gender and diversity approach in addressing problematic drug use from public health, especially in high-vulnerability contexts; specificities in the assistance to women, pregnant adolescents, girls/adolescents from the street, sex workers, LGBT community; masculinity and situation of vulnerability for problematic drug use.	Dra. Martha Romero Mendoza
10	Harm reduction programmes in management of problematic use among children and youth	Adolescence and risk behaviours in context of high social vulnerability; analysis of experiences in harm reduction programmes for the management of problematic drug use in the infant-juvenile population; application in the context of the CELAC.	Dr. Ángel Turbi Pinazo
11	Problematic drug use and its related harm in population in street situation: a comprehensive care	Exploring social inequality and poverty contexts; description of homeless population; life experiences and health problems; relationship between drug use and homelessness; harm reduction actions- challenges and achievements; successful programs implemented.	Dra. Elisabet Arribas-Ibar

12	Public health management of problematic drug use among people deprived of liberty	Analysis of health conditions and situations of social vulnerability in the liberty-deprived population; successful experiences on harm reduction programmes in deprivation of liberty.	Lic. Naomi Burke-Shyne Lic. Katie Stone
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